(ii) Preliminary anti-dumping duties have been imposed in respect of import of battery cells and sports shoes from China on the basis of *Suo-motto* investigations.

(iii) Import of all packaged commodities has been made subject to compliance of all the conditions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodity) Order, 1977, as applicable on domestic producers.

(iv) Import of 131 products has been made subject to compliance of the mandatory Indian quality standards as applicable to domestic goods. For compliance of this requirement all manufacturers/exporters of these products to India shall be required to register themselves with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The list of 131 products includes various food preservatives and additives, milk powder, infant milk food, certain kinds of cement, household and similar electrical appliances, gas cylinders and multipurpose dry batteries.

The Government has further decided to introduce a Bill for amending the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 so that Safeguard Action in the form of QRs can be applied if the situation so warrants.

The Prime Minister has already announced a policy package for Small Scale Industries and the Tiny Sector on 30th August 2000 to make them more competitive. An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has also been constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Commerce Secretary to assess the likely impact of the impending removal of QRs and to suggest suitable corrective measures.

Stagnation in demand for petroleum products

*87. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a stagnation in demand for the petroleum products during the year 2000; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The overall demand of petroleum products for the period April to December, 2000 recorded a growth rate of 2.8% as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Product-wise details are given in the Statement placed on. the table of the House, *(see* below)

(b) The demand for petroleum products is dependant on a variety of factors.

Statement

The comparison of demand for petroleum products during April to December, 1999-2000 and 2000-01.

(Figures in TMT)

Product	April—Dect 1999-2000	smber 2000-01	% of growth
LPG	4533	5112	12.8
MS	4386	4913	12.0
ATF	1609	1658	03.0
SKO	9008	8506	-5.6
HSD	29568	28734	-2.8
Dc-controlled Products			
NaphthaNGL	8229	9814	19.3
LDO	1129	1096	-4.2
Lubes	911	702	-22.9
FO/LSHS	9482	9366	-1.2
Bitumen	1931	1844	-4.5
Others	1179	2224	88.6
TOTAL:	71965	73969	2.8